

FORM PTO-1390 (Modified)  
(REV 10-95)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)  
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

686

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR

09/319842

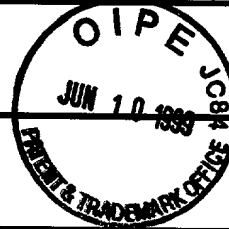
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.  
PCT/DE 98/02971INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE  
OCTOBER 8, 1998PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED  
OCTOBER 16, 1997

TITLE OF INVENTION

BEARING ELEMENT FOR HINGING A WIPER BLADE

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Klaus-Juergen WESTERMANN, Eric POLLARIS, Andreas STRAUSS



Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☐ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☐ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))
  - a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☐ A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).
8. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
  - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
  - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
9. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
10. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
11. ☐ A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).
12. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).

## Items 13 to 18 below concern document(s) or information included:

13. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.  
A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
16. ☐ A substitute specification.
17. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
18. ☒ Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
19. ☐ Other items or information:

Express Mail Mailing Label

Number

Date of Deposit

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN) <b>37 CFR</b>	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/DE 98/02971</b>	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <b>686</b>
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20. The following fees are submitted: <b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE ( 37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :</b>				<b>CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO .....	<b>\$930.00</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) .....	<b>\$720.00</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) .....	<b>\$790.00</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO .....	<b>\$1,070.00</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4) .....	<b>\$98.00</b>			
<b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>			<b>\$970.00</b>		
Surcharge of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)). <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30			<b>\$0.00</b>		
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	8 - 20 =	0	x \$22.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	
Independent claims	1 - 3 =	0	x \$80.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable). <input type="checkbox"/>				<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				<b>\$970.00</b>	
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28) (check if applicable). <input type="checkbox"/>				<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>				<b>\$970.00</b>	
Processing fee of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)). <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30			+	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>				<b>\$970.00</b>	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable). <input type="checkbox"/>				<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>				<b>\$970.00</b>	
				Amount to be: refunded	\$
				charged	\$

☒ A check in the amount of **\$970.00** to cover the above fees is enclosed.


☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees.  
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **19-4675** A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

**NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.**

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

**STRIKER, STRIKER & STENBY**  
**103 EAST NECK ROAD**  
**HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK 11743**

  
 SIGNATURE  
**MICHAEL J. STRIKER**  
 NAME  
**27233**  
 REGISTRATION NUMBER  
**JUNE 9, 1999**  
 DATE



09/319842

510 Rec'd PCT/PTO 10 JUN 1999

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner:

Group:

Attorney Docket # 686

Applicant(s) : WESTERMANN, K., et al

Serial No. :

Filed : Simultaneously

For : BEARING ELEMENT FOR HINGING A WIPER  
BLADE

**SIMULTANEOUS AMENDMENT**

June 9, 1999

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**S I R S:**

Simultaneously with filing of the above identified application  
please amend the same as follows:

In the Claims:

Claim 3 line 1 and 2 delete "one of the preceding claims", substitute with "claim 1".

Claim 4 line 1 and 2 delete "one of the preceding claims", substitute with "claim 1".

Claim 5 line 1 and 2 delete "one of the preceding claims", substitute with "claim 1".

Claim 6 line 1 and 2 delete "one of the preceding claims", substitute with "claim 1".

**REMARKS:**

This Amendment is submitted simultaneously with filing of the above identified  
application.

09/319842-0386TE50

With the present Amendment applicant has amended the claims so as to eliminate their multiple dependency.

Consideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Striker", is written over the printed name.

Michael J. Striker  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 27233

656030" 2436T660

The invention is based on a bearing element for hinging a wiper blade according to the preamble to claim 1.

Known windshield wipers have a wiper arm that is comprised of a fastening part and an articulating part hinged to it that has a wiper rod. Furthermore, they have wiper blade that is comprised of a support bracket system with a primary center bracket and articulatingly connected, subordinate intermediary brackets as well as claw brackets and a wiper strip. The wiper blade is linked to the wiper arm by virtue of the fact that a hook-shaped end of the wiper rod holds a bearing element that is disposed between two side-pieces of the center bracket and, with a hub that is open over a circumference region, constitutes a hinge bolt of the center bracket. The articulation thus formed guides the wiper blade during the pivoting motion over the windshield, wherein the articulation and the support bracket system make it possible for the wiper strip to be able to adapt to a convexity of the windshield.

While the wiper arm is as a rule embodied in a vehicle specific manner and experiences practically no wear during the service life, the wiper blade wears particularly at the articulations and on the wiper strip so that it must be replaced frequently during the service life of the vehicle. In this connection, as a rule not only is the wiper strip replaced, but also the entire wiper blade, which is commercially available.

In order to keep the number of wiper blade types low, plastic bearing elements are packaged along with the wiper blades and have a number of receiving devices for the wiper rod thus permitting the same wiper blade to be used with wiper rods of different material thicknesses and widths as well as different bending radii and detent elements. From the available bearing elements, the user selects the one suited for his vehicle and discards the rest. The excess bearing elements increase the wiper blade packaging and lead to an increase in waste. Furthermore, the transport and storage volume is increased.

EP 0 234 525 B1 has disclosed a bearing element of this generic type, which has a lateral strut that is offset from the open hub in the longitudinal direction and, when the bearing element is mounted on the hook-shaped end of the wiper rod, serves as a fixing in the longitudinal direction. To that end, the lateral strut has a distance from the rotational axis of the hub, which corresponds to the external bending radius of the hook-shaped end of the wiper rod. The wiper rod therefore does not require any detent opening for the longitudinal securing of the bearing element. The bearing element is consequently suited for wiper rods with and without a detent opening.

Furthermore, EP 0 655 373 A1 has disclosed a similar bearing element, which has two lateral struts disposed offset from the hub in the longitudinal direction, which serve as a longitudinal securing device for a hook-shaped end of a wiper rod, and the lateral strut that is disposed closest to the rotational axis is used for a hook-shaped end with a smaller bending radius and the other lateral strut is used for a hook-shaped end with a larger bending radius. The hook-shaped end with a larger bending radius rests with its curved inner surface against a correspondingly shaped contact face of the first lateral strut. Consequently, this bearing element is suited for wiper rods whose hook-shaped ends have two different bending radii. In order to keep the wiper rod from rotating in relation to the wiper rod, it has an additional lateral strut and a detent projection disposed offset toward the hub. When mounting, the wiper rod is locked in detent fashion between the lateral strut and the detent projection.

#### Advantages of the Invention

According to the invention, the bearing element has two side walls that are connected by way of an open hub and a number of lateral struts. The side walls extend in the longitudinal direction of the bearing element on both sides of the hub, wherein the clearances of the side walls are different sizes on the opposite ends. The bearing element can consequently be used

for wiper rods of different widths by virtue of the fact that on the one hand, a wide wiper rod is guided laterally between the end regions of the side walls that have a large clearance and on the other hand, a narrower wiper rod is guided between the end regions on the opposite end of the bearing element.

Advantageously, the bearing element has the same external width at both ends so that it is favorably guided between the side-pieces of the center bracket. This is achieved by means of beads that define the smaller clearance of the side walls at one end.

According to one embodiment of the invention, an outer contour of the hub has a contact face for the hook-shaped end of the wiper rod with a small bending radius and a smaller material thickness. In the clearance that corresponds to the material thickness, a first lateral strut is disposed offset from the hub in the longitudinal direction and when mounted, rests against the outer bending radius of the hook-shaped end and consequently fixes the bearing element to the wiper arm in the longitudinal direction. As a result, an otherwise customary detent projection, which engages in a detent opening of the hook-shaped end of the wiper rod, is no longer necessary. Consequently, the bearing element is suited for wiper rods with different detent openings or those that do not have any detent opening.

For wiper rods with a hook-shaped end that has a larger bending radius, the first lateral strut has a contact face on its outer contour remote from the hub. At a distance from this contact face corresponding to the larger material thickness of the wiper rod, a second lateral strut is disposed, which represents a stop for the wiper rod in the longitudinal direction when mounted.

The second lateral strut has a flattened contact face toward the hub for a narrower wiper rod with a hook-shaped end that has a smaller bending radius and a smaller material thickness. In this instance, the first lateral strut is used to fix the wiper rod in the longitudinal direction when mounted. In this

connection, the flattening selected so that in the central, flattened region of the contact face, the distance to the first lateral strut corresponds to the larger material thickness of the wiper rod with a larger bending radius.

In order to limit the pivoting motion of the wiper rod in relation to the bearing element, additional lateral struts are provided against which the wiper rod rests when mounted. Suitably, a detent projection is provided on the side walls, at least on one end, which in connection with the additional lateral struts, secure the wiper rod in the mounted position. The legs of the wiper rod on its hook-shaped end are disposed virtually parallel to the longitudinal direction, wherein the wiper rod is fixed between the additional lateral struts and the respective detent projections. So that wiper rods with a different material thickness can be fixed in a play-free manner, it is advantageous to dispose the detent projection as offset in relation to the other struts, toward the hub in the longitudinal direction. As a result, the wiper rod with the smaller material thickness is given a greater inclination in relation to the longitudinal direction so that it fills the intermediary space projected in the longitudinal direction between the additional lateral strut and the detent hub in a play-free manner.

#### Drawings

Additional advantages ensue from the following description of the drawings. An exemplary embodiment of the invention is depicted in the drawings. The drawings, the description, and the claims contain numerous features in combination. One skilled in the art will also suitably consider the features individually and will combine them into meaningful additional combinations.

- Fig 1. is a top view of a windshield wiper,  
Fig 2. is a longitudinal section through a bearing element according to the invention,  
Fig 3. is a top view of the bearing element according to Fig. 2,  
Fig 4. is a longitudinal section corresponding to Fig. 2 with a



half-mounted bearing element on a wiper rod with a larger width and a smaller material thickness,

Fig 5. is a longitudinal section corresponding to Fig. 4, with a bearing element in the mounted position,

Fig 6. is a section corresponding to Fig. 5, but with a wiper rod that has a larger material thickness and a larger bending radius of its hook-shaped end, and

Fig 7. is a section corresponding to Fig. 5, with a bearing element that is rotated by 180° and is for a narrower wiper rod.

#### Description of the Exemplary Embodiments

The windshield wiper shown in Fig. 1 has a wiper arm 12 with a fastening part 14 and an articulating part 16 to which a wiper rod 18 is attached. The articulating part 16 and the wiper rod 18 can also be embodied as being of one piece. With its hook-shaped end 20 (Fig. 5), the wiper rod 18 holds a bearing element 30, which is disposed between side-pieces of a center bracket 22 and includes a supporting bolt 28 of the center bracket 22 with an open hub 36. The center bracket 22 is part of a wiper blade 10 whose wiper strip 26 is articulately connected to the center bracket 22 by way of claw brackets 24.

The bearing element 30 has two side walls 32, 34 extending in the longitudinal direction 38, which are connected to each other by way of the hub 36, a first lateral strut 60, a second lateral strut 64, and additional lateral struts 70. The side walls 32, 34 have different sized clearances 40, 42 on their ends, wherein the smaller clearance 40 is formed by beads 44 so that externally, the width of the bearing element 30 is the same at both ends despite the different clearances 40, 42 and as a result, the bearing element 30 is reliably guided in the center bracket 22. The different clearances 40, 42 are provided for

wiper rods 18 with a corresponding width, which are guided with the hook-shaped end 20 between the side walls 32 and 34. Consequently, the bearing element 30 can be used for wiper rods 18 with two different widths.

The hook-shaped end 20 with a smaller material thickness 52 and a smaller bending radius 48 (Fig. 5) is slid lateral to the longitudinal direction 38 through the bearing element 30 and is pulled over the hub 36 until the inner contour rests against the hub 36. Then it is pivoted by approx.  $90^\circ$  until it rests with its longer leg 72 against the additional strut 70 and engages in detent fashion between it and a detent projection 76 (Fig. 5). In the mounted position (Fig. 5), the legs 72, 74 of the wiper rod 18 are disposed nearly parallel to the longitudinal direction 38, but with a slight inclination so that the inner and outer sides of the longer leg 72 rest in a play-free manner against the detent projection 76 or against the additional lateral strut 70. This is achieved in particular by virtue of the fact that in relation to the additional lateral strut 70, the detent projection 76 is disposed offset toward the hub 36 in the longitudinal direction 38.

In the longitudinal direction 38, the hook-shaped end 20 is held by the first lateral strut 60, which is disposed at a distance 56 from the hub 36 that corresponds to the smaller material thickness 52. On the side remote from the hub 36, the first lateral strut 60 has a contact face 62 for a wiper rod 18 with a hook-shaped end 20, which has a larger bending radius 50 and a larger material thickness 54 (Fig. 6). The hook-shaped end 20 according to Fig. 6 is mounted in a manner similar to the one according to Fig. 5, but it is pulled over the hub 36 and the first lateral strut 60 and is then pivoted by  $90^\circ$  around a virtual axis that is disposed between the contact face 62 and the hub 36 until the longer leg 72 engages in detent fashion between the additional lateral strut 70 and the detent projection 76. Corresponding recesses 82 are provided on the hub 36 so that the

hook-shaped end 20 can be pulled over the hub 36 and the first lateral strut 60, and can then be rotated.

For securing in the longitudinal direction 38, a second lateral strut 64 is provided at the distance 58 from the first lateral strut 60. Toward the first lateral strut 60, this second lateral strut has a contact face 66, which has a flattening 68 in its central region. The contact face 66 is used to receive a hook-shaped end 20 of a narrower wiper rod 18 with a smaller bending radius and a smaller material thickness 52 (Fig. 7). The flattening 68 achieves the fact that the contact face 62 of the first lateral strut 60 can provide for the axial securing of the hook-shaped end 20 with the smaller material thickness 52 according to Fig. 7, and a spacing 58 is nevertheless achieved for a hook-shaped end 20 with a larger material thickness 54 according to Fig. 6.

In order to mount the bearing element 30 on the supporting bolt 28, recesses 80 are provided in the side walls 32, 34 and are connected to the open side of the hub 36. Through the elasticity of the material, the bearing element 30 can be clipped onto the supporting bolt 28 and consequently can be packaged and supplied in a pre-assembled state with the wiper blade 10.

The bearing element 30 according to the invention can be used for wiper rods 18 with two different widths, material thicknesses 52, 54, and bending radii 48, 50. As a result, the requirements for the three most common wiper rods 18, namely with a cross sectional profile of 8 x 3 mm, 9 x 3 mm, and 9 x 4 mm, can be fulfilled by one bearing element 30. It replaces and reduces the bewildering array of bearing elements that are normally packaged along with the wiper blade 10. Furthermore, it can be pre-assembled in a user-friendly manner and additionally reduces the packaging size.

## Claims

1. A bearing element (30) for hinging a wiper blade (10) to a hook-shaped end (20) of a wiper rod (18) of a windshield wiper, which can be slid with a hub (36), which is open over part of its circumference, onto a supporting bolt (28) of the wiper blade (10) and when mounted, is held by the hook-shaped end (20) by way of contact faces (46, 62, 66) and detent means (70, 76, 78), characterized in that two side walls (32, 34) that are connected by way of the hub (36) and a number of lateral struts (60, 64, 70) extend in the longitudinal direction (38) on both sides of the hub (36), wherein the clearances (40, 42) of the side walls (32, 34) are different sizes on the opposite ends.

2. The bearing element (30) according to claim 1, characterized in that the clearance (40) of the side walls (32, 34) is reduced on one end by means of beads (44).

3. The bearing element (30) according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that an outer contour of the hub (36) has a contact face (46) for a hook-shaped end (20) of the wiper rod (18), with a smaller bending radius (48) and a smaller material thickness (52) and a first lateral strut (60) is disposed at a distance (56) in the longitudinal direction (38) that corresponds to the smaller material thickness (52).

4. The bearing element (30) according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that on its outer contour remote from the hub (36), the first lateral strut (60) has a contact face (62) for a hook-shaped end (20) of a wiper rod (18) with a larger bending radius (50) and a larger material thickness (54) and a second lateral strut (64) is disposed at a distance (58) in the longitudinal direction (38) that corresponds to the larger material thickness (54).

5. The bearing element (30) according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the second lateral strut (64) has a flattened contact face (66) that is oriented toward the hub (36) and is for a narrower wiper rod (18) with a hook-shaped end (20) that has a smaller bending radius (48) and a smaller material thickness (52).

6. The bearing element (30) according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that an additional lateral strut (70) is disposed at the ends of the side walls (32, 34), which limits the pivoting motion of the wiper rod (18) so that the legs (72, 74) of the hook-shaped end (20) extend virtually parallel to the longitudinal direction (38) in the mounted position.

7. The bearing element (30) according to claim 6, characterized in that on the side walls (32, 34), starting from the additional lateral struts (70), at least one detent projection (76, 78) is disposed on the inside, which in the mounted position, rests against the inner side of the long leg (72) of the hook-shaped end (20).

8. The bearing element (30) according to claim 7, characterized in that in relation to the additional lateral struts (70), the detent projection (76, 78) is disposed offset toward the hub (36) in the longitudinal direction (38) to such an extent that the wiper rod (18) with a smaller material thickness (52) and a smaller bending radius (48) is held in a play-free manner with a slight inclination in relation to the longitudinal direction (38).

## Bearing Element for Hinging a Wiper Blade

### Abstract

1. The invention is based on a bearing element (30) for hinging a wiper blade (10) to a hook-shaped end (20) of a wiper rod (18) of a windshield wiper, which can be slid with a hub (36), which is open over part of its circumference, onto a supporting bolt (28) of the wiper blade (10) and when mounted, is held by the hook-shaped end (20) by way of contact faces (46, 62, 66) and detent means (70, 76, 78).

The proposal is made that two side walls (32, 34) that are connected by way of the hub (36) and a number of lateral struts (60, 64, 70) extend in the longitudinal direction (38) on both sides of the hub (36), wherein the clearances (40, 42) of the side walls (32, 34) are different sizes on the opposite ends.

(Fig. 2)

# Reference Numerals

10	wiper blade	58	distance
12	wiper arm	60	first lateral strut
14	fastening part	62	contact face
16	articulating part	64	second lateral strut
18	wiper rod	66	contact face
20	hook-shaped end	68	flattening
22	center bracket	70	additional lateral strut
24	claw bracket	72	leg
26	wiper strip	74	leg
28	supporting bolt	76	detent projection
30	bearing element	78	detent projection
32	side wall	80	recess
34	side wall	82	recess
36	hub		
38	longitudinal direction		
40	clearance		
42	clearance		
44	bead		
46	contact face		
48	smaller bending radius		
50	larger bending radius		
52	smaller material thickness		
54	larger material thickness		
56	distance		

1 / 4

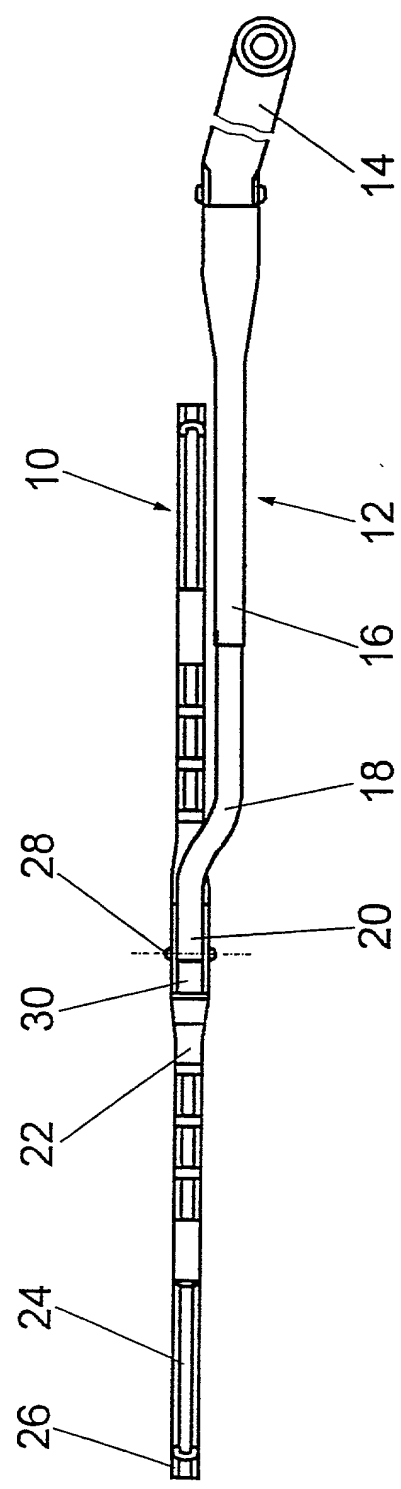


Fig. 1

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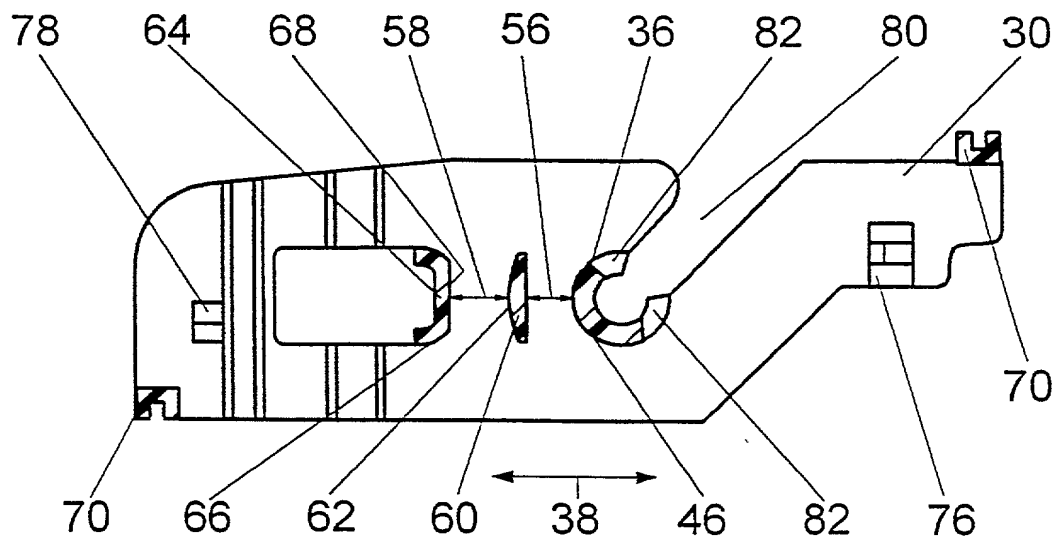


Fig. 2

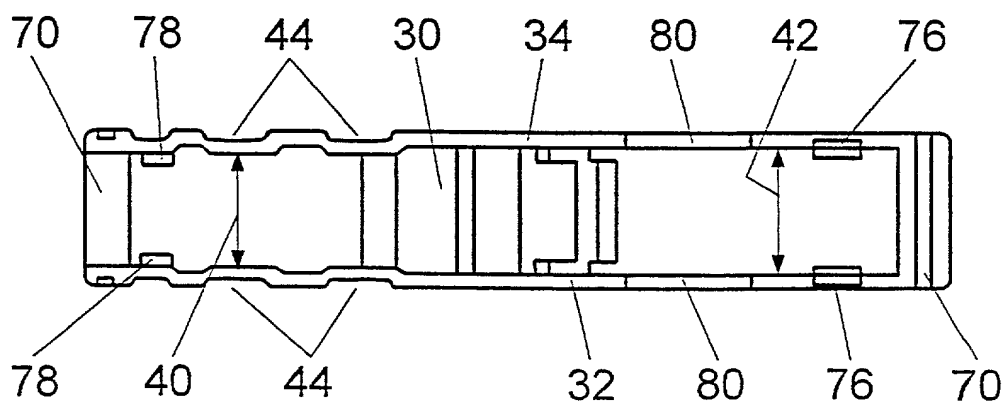


Fig. 3

3 / 4

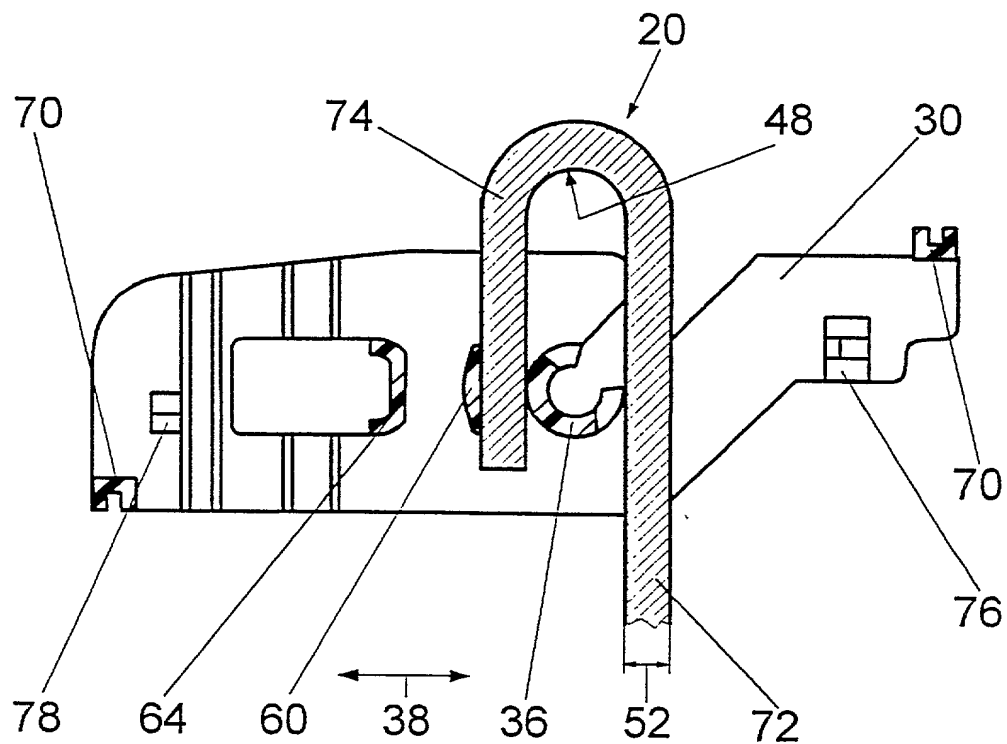


Fig. 4

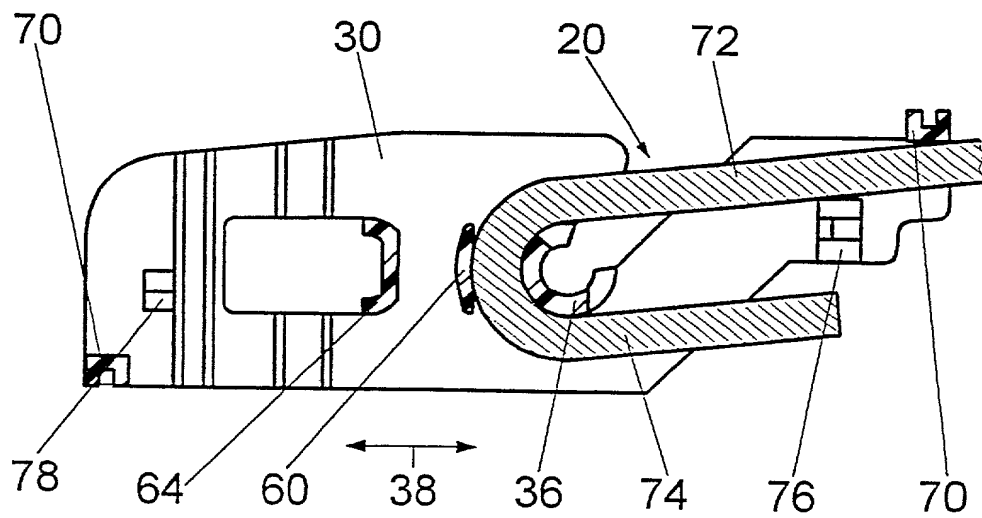


Fig. 5

4 / 4

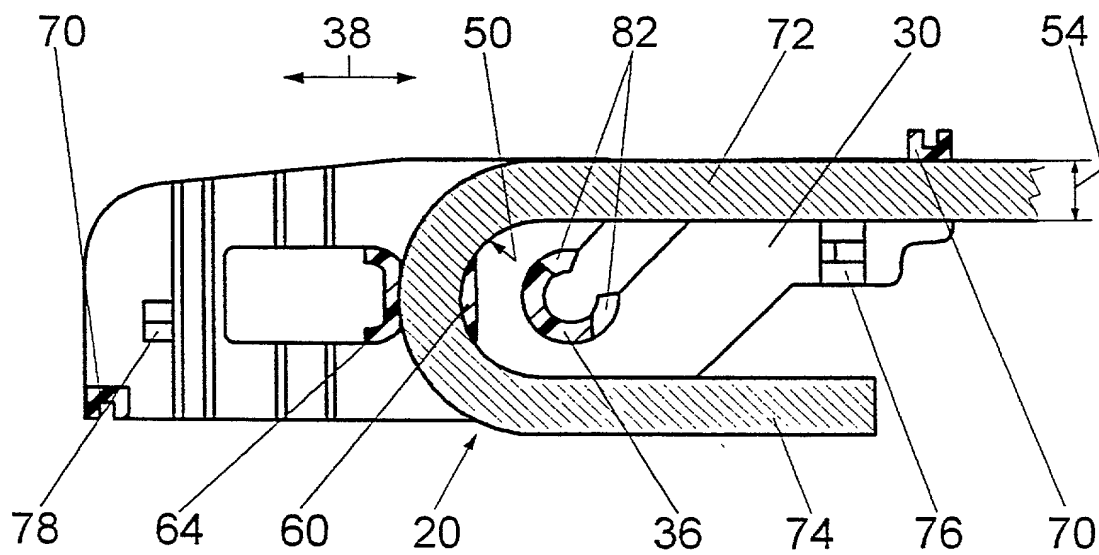


Fig. 6

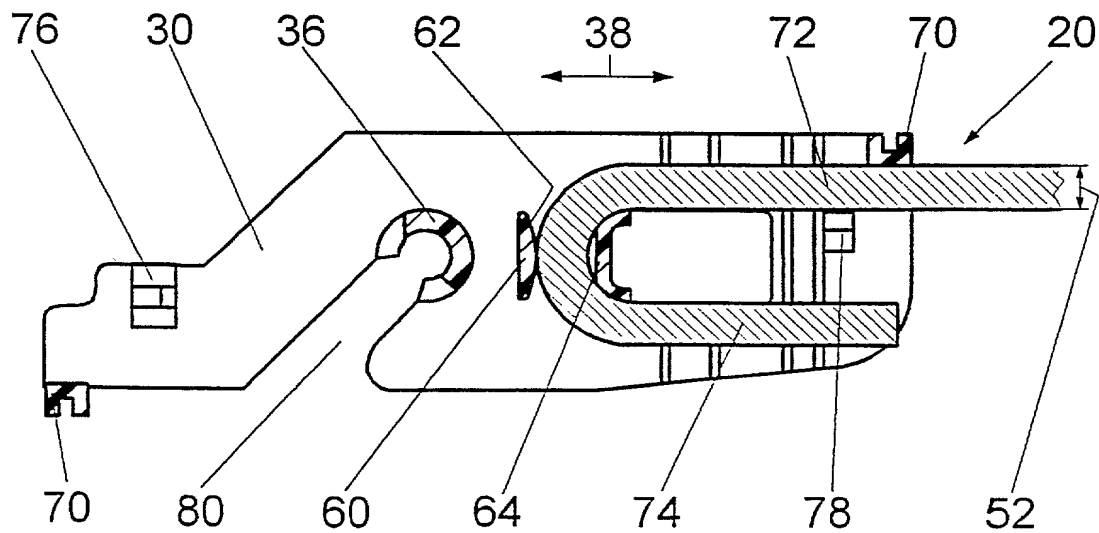


Fig. 7

09/319842-00099

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

Klaus-Juergen WESTERMANN  
Eric POLLARIS  
Andreas STRAUSS

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **BEARING ELEMENT FOR HINGING A WIPER BLADE** the specification of which was filed as PCT International Application number PCT/DE 98/02971 on October 8, 1998.

I hereby state that I believe the named inventor or inventors in this Declaration to be the original and first inventor or inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior foreign application(s):

Priority claimed:

<u>197 45 845.9</u>	<u>DE</u>	<u>OCTOBER 16, 1997</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>
(Number)	(Country)	(Date filed)	Yes	No
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
(Number)	(Country)	(Date filed)	Yes	No

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or

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imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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